

BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS

The issue of the Chieftain published November 3, 1882, contained among other things clippings from papers throughout the middle west giving very complimentary mention of the Vinita fair, which was held the week previous. Write ups from the Oswego Republican and the Cherokee Advocate especially were very interesting and both papers extended their heartiest congratulations to Vinita.

On the local page of that issue of the Chieftain we find a notice of the death of Mrs. D. W. Bushyhead of Fort Gibson, wife of Chief Bushyhead. In concluding the item the Chieftain said: "We deeply sympathize with the noble hearted old chief in this his sad affliction, in the loss of so estimable a wife. The whole Nation will mingle regret with the family at the death of Mrs. Bushyhead. Peace to her ashes and may flights of angels sing her to her rest."

Under the heading "A Hoax," we find the following: "Last Monday a rumor became current on our streets that a case of smallpox was in Vinita—that a little darky boy in old June's family had it. Upon investigation, we found the report to be false—entirely false. The little darky was sick, but his illness was brought on thusly: He and another little chap had gotten hold of a box of sugar coated pills, and, thinking the pills were candy by being sugar coated, they ate the pills up to get the sugar that was on them. Do you wonder at them being sick-a-little? And this was the smallpox scare. No, there is no smallpox in or about Vinita, nor is there likely to be. The colored people about 20 miles southeast of here on Grand river have something similar to smallpox, and several of them have died, but the disease they have has not yet been diagnosed, and therefore it is hard to tell what the nature of the disease is. At any rate Vinita has quarantined against the colored folks from that section until further notice. So you see Vinita is not likely to have it, even if they have it on the river."

Here's an item about a man who

made a speech. The Chieftain said: "A prominent official of Delaware district visited Tahlequah not long since and made a speech to his sect in that town. As reported to us he spoke eloquently, as follows: 'Lots of candidates for chief now—Busseyhead, Labit Bunch, Ocherlater, Charley Rogers, and dey say Bill McCracken and Hoolie Bell is going to put up some more. If they do Busseyhead will beat thousand dollar majority.' A good speech indeed for one who does not speak English better."

Although only a few weeks old the Chieftain was receiving considerable encouragement from the people, as is evidenced by this item which contains an expression of thanks from the editor: "We are very thankful of the liberal patronage the people of the B. I. T. are giving. We can freely say we are receiving the best support of any paper so young as ours ever published in this country and we can assure you it is appreciated by the proprietors of the Chieftain. Last week we received more subscribers than any week previous and this week has been just as encouraging as ever. They all want the Chieftain. They want a paper that defends the rights of the people. Our people have become far enough advanced to appreciate an independent journal such as ours and we are glad of it for it speaks well for their good sense and intelligence."

Advertising paid back in the early days, just as it does today. This item proves it: "W. S. Corderay called Monday to tell us he just received a letter from the Hober Milling Co., of Seneca, Mo., stating that they had just read his advertisement in the Chieftain and wanted him to give them prices on coal, by return mail. They said they wanted two carloads per week. If you don't want the people to know what your business is or what you want, don't come to advertise in the Chieftain, for they all read it."

Also, tramps got hungry in the early eighties, and this item cites an incident in which one tramp took the trouble to feed himself: "Some

hungry cuss, who had neither the fear of God nor the laws of man, entered the lunch stand of Mrs. S. E. Eifert last Monday night and helped himself to as much cake, pie, etc., as he could eat and then thoughtfully stored away enough to last for a week to come. He also smoked, and a box of 10-cent cigars was made use of by him. He crowded his way in to the lunch stand through a broken window which Frank Allen, who is helping Mrs. Eifert, says he will come very nearly stopping up from this time on."

Here's an item which will no doubt bring back pleasant memories to some, who were boys and girls in the eighties: "The young folks had a boss time pulling candy at Mr. Edmunson's on Tuesday evening. A few minutes in dental work which was performed in a very short time and with but little pain."

And here's a big potato story which is worth quoting: "One sweet potato fed fourteen at Emerson's restaurant on Thursday morning. How's that for a big potato?"

Many other interesting news items appeared in the Nov. 3, 1882, issue of the Chieftain. We would be glad to reprint all of them if we had space, but as we can't possibly do so, we have selected the following to give our readers of today a general idea of the town's doings at that time: "Lots of drummers in town last Tuesday. Lots of prairie chickens in this section now. Last Wednesday was the first day of winter. The flag still waves over the floral hall at the fair grounds. Captain L. B. Bell still shakes with the chills. A very pleasant party at Mr. McSpadden's on the 26th of October. Nat Skinner reports all quiet at his ranch and stock doing well. J. W. Skinner was the first man who subscribed for the Chieftain. Frank Cass' new store is one of the most commodious in this section. The Worcester academy building is the handsomest in this whole country. We are glad to hear Judge Parks, who has been ill for some time, is convalescent. J. O. Hall's

new residence about two miles south of town will be a good one when finished. The fur trade has commenced in Vinita and daily you can see wagon loads of furs coming into town. Judge Wyley's name, of Delaware district, is mentioned in connection with our supreme bench.

Rev. W. A. Duncan has bought a farm near Tahlequah and moved on it with his family. H. Balentine received the first premium on flour, which was overlooked in the premium list in our last issue. Lucien Buffington went to Flint district this week to drive up some cattle he and Hoolie Bell bought there. One of the largest funerals ever witnessed in the Nation was that of Mrs. Bushyhead at Fort Gibson last Tuesday. The prairie fires west of Vinita have been playing havoc with some people's fences and hay. Three more new dwelling houses are going up in Vinita, besides several are being repaired and added to. That was no small-pox anyway. Simply a malignant type of measles among the colored folks on the river. We noticed Rev. Charles Bluejacket on our streets one day this week. He is one of the solid citizens of Delaware district. The Cherokee tax collectors west of 96 will turn over to the Nation some thirty odd thousand dollars. A good collection and showing. Hons. Lon Lynch and R. B. Ross will probably make the race for circuit judges of their respective circuits the next election. Both are good men. Prof. Gray has been appointed by Hon. R. L. Owen to teach the Vinita school in place of S. S. Stephens, who has been teaching it for some time. John L. McCoy informs us that he will start for Washington in a few days to remain there during congress looking after the "Old Settler Claim". Hon. Kegee Gunter, late candidate for solicitor of Cooweescoowee, is making Vinita his headquarters for awhile. Kegee is in bad health, but we hope to see him well soon. John Cotwell received the first premium on geese, \$1, at the fair. The genial "Tuxie"

Brown of Fort Gibson was in Vinita last Monday. He did not remain long, as he came up to get a casket of A. C. Raymond for the remains of Mrs. Bushyhead. An unlucky man left his false teeth, two upper teeth, lying on Dr. E. J. Warren's counter a few days ago. The owner can have the same by calling at the doctor's office and paying for this notice. Judge Joel Bryan of Choctaw was in Vinita last Friday. The Judge will start for Washington in a few days to attend to the old settlers' claim. Col. J. M. Pearyman, treasurer of the Creek Nation, passed through Vinita last Sunday on his way home to Okmulgee. He said he had seen a copy of the Chieftain and liked it, so he left his subscription, as quite a number of our Creek brothers have done. It is reported that Judge Rogers is going to withdraw from that ticket. If such is the case, his many friends in this section glory in his spunk and good judgement. Old Charley always has heretofore been level headed and we think he is yet, and so do his friends. We are glad, yes, more than glad, to know that our friends in the western part of the Nation have a mail route again. They have been cut off from the outside world for the last two months in the way of mail facilities on account of contractor's failing.

Tahlequah will be lovely during council, which commences Monday, Nov. 6. A great many people are going from this section to attend council. We want to see a lot of good legislation done, such as develop our internal resources, looking after intruders, etc. Jim Foster, who has just returned from a trip to Arkansas, reports everything quiet along the line except that the people in that section are clamoring to get the Chieftain. They told Jim they had to have it—that it was the best paper ever published in the Indian Territory. We see from Cherokee Advocate that our friend Thomas P. Wolfe, and not Dr. Adair purchased the National Brick Hotel. Success to you Tom and may your energies be rewarded by a good crowd of

boarders during council which we know will be the case, and that you will set a good table. The race between the Audrain mare and McCracken's filly at this place last Saturday was won easily by McCracken's—she beating the Audrain mare thirty feet in the quarter. Quite a crowd was out to witness the race. Very little betting was done outside of the main bet of \$400, as all thought it was going to be a very tight race. Arthur says there are more nuts, apples, melons, candies, turnips, etc., eaten in W. C. Chamberlain's store without receiving any money for them than in any other place in the Cherokee Nation. But he says none of the boys forget him. They always drive up to his store and unload their chickens, deer skins, hides, furs, etc. Cold weather predicted. Geese and ducks flying for warmer quarters. Mr. Rixie of Skiatook writes to the Chieftain, enclosing \$1.50, and says: "Send me your noted Chieftain. I must have it. I am like all the rest in this section."

W. C. Chamberlain left for St. Louis to look after the five car loads of cattle he shipped on last Friday. Stephen A. Bluejacket, the clever and genial young clerk of C. C. Ironsides, proposes a hunting expedition for the next month or so. Stephen is a jolly good hearted boy and we only wish we could accompany him."

In the Fort Gibson items printed in the Chieftain, Nov. 3, 1882, we find the following: "Sickness continues unabated. The earthquake shock made us all shake. Mr. Uhl's new residence is nearing completion. One modest burg was graced by the presence of Hon. R. L. Owen of Tahlequah one day last week. Loads of cotton continue to pour in. Mr. Scott is stationed at his scales almost constantly. The Cherokee school is getting along well with an enrollment of fifty. A light steamer from Fort Smith came up a few days since, which relieved the monotony not a little. The Sabbath schools are prospering very much."

PRESTON DAVIS AT JOPLIN BANQUET

At a banquet given on the occasion of the formal opening of the new stock exchange at Joplin a few evenings ago, one of the principal speakers was Preston Davis of Vinita. Distinguished men from a number of states were present, and Mr. Davis attended as the special representative of Oklahoma appointed by Governor Haskell. Joplin Globe, in reporting the affair, printed Mr. Davis' picture and gave his speech, in part, as follows:

"At the request of the governor of the state of Oklahoma, I am present to-night to represent our dear state, Governor Haskell wishes me to express to you the regret he feels in not being able to be present on this occasion as your guest, and begs me to assure you that he is in perfect sympathy and accord with this and every other worthy and laudable enterprise that tends to the upbuilding of the business interests of our glorious Southwest."

"His misfortune, however, has resulted in my gain and it is with much pride and pleasure that I meet you, representing my state."

"I know but very little about stock exchanges. I never owned any stock to speak of except an occasional horse, cow or pig, and never found it difficult to put what funds I could get in change. The only property I have to list on or off change, is that species of property

so peculiar to my profession known and designated by the plain thinking people of this century as "air" or "wind," and too frequently I find the markets overstocked and sluggish for the sale of my commodity."

"But aside from levity, I am proud to see the citizenship of this great city of Joplin organize and prepare to operate a legitimate stock exchange for the legitimate listing and sale of legitimate stocks, securities and bonds. It occurs to me that such a stock exchange will fill a long felt want in handling and finding a market for home securities, not only for Joplin and her varied and extensive interests, but for the vast interests of Southwest Missouri, South-eastern Kansas, Northwestern Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma."

"Situated as you are in the geographical center of the vast and fertile and resourceful country you become at once the natural and logical center of business, trade and finance and the means of bringing about greater development and amassing permanent wealth."

"Oklahoma through me tonight brings to you a message of encouragement, endorsement and co-operation in the beneficial work. Oklahoma, if not the best state in the union, certainly second to none, and positively the baby sister of them all; Oklahoma, beautiful with rolling prairies, strewn with violets,

daises and sweet forget-me-nots; Oklahoma, with such vast and pleasing prospects of fertile fields and peaceful farms; Oklahoma, with her varied products of cotton, hay, wheat potatoes and corn; Oklahoma with her laden trees and fruitful mines—her oil, coal, and gas fields, the largest in the world. With unlimited resources, flocks and herds; untold wealth—land of plenty, peace, sunshine and flowers—a babe in swaddling clothes, and yet a tawny young giant of the bottom west, sends you greetings and promises you her succor and support."

"With a constitution drafted to curb the grasping power of corporation greed, oppression and aggrandizement, with laws that give full protection to life, liberty and property, with one of the ablest men in the republic in her gubernatorial chair."

"With competent lawmakers and officials, and with a homogeneous and splendid citizenship made up from the best blood and families of the other states, Oklahoma places her star, the forty-sixth, in the azure field of Old Glory—resplendent with strength, brilliant with devotion and effulgent in glory; and begins her struggle along with her sisters for a higher and better civilization—fullest realizations of a perfect state of government as an inseparable part of our indivisible union."

"We pledge you not only our material wealth and vast and unlimited resources, but our splendid and superb citizenship as well. In this enterprise, for after all the greatest thing a state or nation can possess is the loyalty of an intelligent and devoted citizenship."

NEWS NOTES

B. A. McFarland Sundayed at Cleora.

Raymond Aikin visited at Chelsea recently.

Dr. B. F. Fortner was here from Springfield Saturday.

Mrs. J. M. Jones and baby are up from a weeks sickness.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Allen left Saturday for a visit in Missouri.

Tom Sheenan was the only guard held over from the old jail.

Mrs. J. W. Muser visited relatives at Bluejacket over Sunday.

Quite a few property owners have begun putting down sidewalks.

S. Y. Cobb bought 3 car load of cattle from Hawkins & Leforce Friday.

W. G. Reamer bought 9 cars of cattle in the Choctaw country last week.

T. A. Chandler left Friday for Washington, D. C. to be gone several days.

Mrs. Barbra Churchill left for Bartlesville Saturday to join her husband.

Vern Thompson and Miss Jennie Renicker of Miami visited the Robins sisters Sunday.

C. W. Cross is busy making a cement sidewalk in front of the Harris building.

Mrs. W. P. Thompson, who visited at Fort Gibson last week was accompanied home by C. D. Penelton and wife of Tahlequah, who are here for a few days visit.

NEWS NOTES

Miss Mattie Pegues and sister came up from Pryor Creek Sunday.

A. R. Jones of Melford, Saskatchewan, Providence, Canada, is here visiting J. T. Ragan.

T. H. Wendenhall has completed the cement sidewalk from the Green Hotel to Canadian avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Maxwell of Ok City, Pa., are here visiting B. A. McFarland and Geo. C. Finley.

E. W. Stryker and daughter, Immogene, have returned from a visit at Oklahoma City and Shawnee.

Pliny L. Soper is in Washington looking after his interest in the Federal Judgeship for the Eastern district.

George Bailow of Estella came in Saturday from the lower part of the nation where he has been teaching school.

Miss Lizzie Evans of Kansas City who has been visiting her uncle, Joe Thatcher and family returned home Sunday.

Wat Adair was here Monday and says his brother Mack and Miss Ruth Smith are to be married Wednesday May 6.

Nat and John Skinner were here from Coffeyville Friday after 600 head of cattle, which was dipped at the Katy stock yards.

George Franklin received 5 car load of cattle last Friday. There has been more cattle shipped in this spring than for several years back.

NEWS NOTES

J. F. Clark, manager of the Farmers Union store at Chaffee went to Kansas City Saturday to buy goods for his store.

W. R. Hendryx has received a letter from Congressman Davenport saying a bill to increase his pension to \$80 per month, had passed the house.

Superintendent H. W. C. Shelton and Dr. G. P. Feyer were out last week visiting Craig county schools. Mr. Shelton reports his new schools established this spring in good condition.

A grading machine has arrived for Trustee D. T. Witt, of Municipal township No. 7, to be used on the public roads. It was bought subject to 60 days trial, and Mr. Witt will loan it to any road overseer who is ready to go to work.

Congressman Davenport has introduced a bill in the house to divide the Eastern Federal Judicial District into three divisions, with court towns at Tulsa and Vinita in the first district, Muskogee and McAlester in the second, and Ardmore and Chickasha in the third.

Dass Tucker Dead.

Dass Tucker, living on his farm a few miles southeast of town, died of Bright's disease Friday night, May 1, 1908. The deceased was an old time settler here, and a brother of Sam Tucker, formerly of this office. He leaves a wife and many friends and relatives to mourn his loss.